

Lois K. Albrecht,  
Distinguished Librarian and PCBL Board Member Emeritus

Lois Albrecht is the first PCBL Board member to be given Emeritus status. Although her health and ability to travel have made it difficult for her to attend meetings and other PCBL and PaLA events, she continues to show interest in PCBL activities and to be a strong advocate for libraries.

Lois and the other PCBL founders worked for several years to organize and start the official operation that began in 1979. For the past 35 years, she has guided PCBL through workshops, conferences, institutes and annual meetings. Lois has been called a “librarian’s librarian” with a most outstanding library career including her many and varied contributions to public libraries, both as a professional and a volunteer. Her contributions to PCBL have been invaluable.

Lois earned her BS in Library Science and Mathematics at Clarion University of PA and then an MLS at the University of Pittsburgh. She has been recognized with various awards for her work on behalf of the State Library of PA and PaLA, and also for work done as President and Chief Consultant of Foresight, Inc. – Planning & Development Consultants. Besides her positions with the State Library, Lois served as Acting Director, Bureau of Library Development, Acting Director, Cumberland County Library, Interim Director, State Library, and Interim Director of PaLA. Lois was perceived by colleagues as a “go-to” professional who could step in to Acting or Interim roles and assist with important transitions.

In 1982 she was honored as the recipient of the PCBL Outstanding Citizen Award and in 2009 as recipient of the 2009 PCBL Lifetime Achievement Award. In 2002 she received the Distinguished Service Award from the Clarion University Alumni Association.

Lois now resides in Westmoreland County and has served on numerous boards and foundations, is a past president of several service organizations and is a strong supporter and former board member of the Murrysville Community Library.

Lois has influenced and inspired so many people with whom she worked over the years and was a role model for dedication, hard work and leadership. Libraries across the Commonwealth and PCBL are grateful recipients of her library career that started when she worked as a volunteer page at the Oil City Public Library. The PCBL Board is fortunate that Lois is our Emeritus member.